

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COTONO 00810 020923Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----047184 030127Z /15
R 020900Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 793
INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS COTONOU 810

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, DM
SUBJ: MAJOR PROJECTS: TRANSPORTATION SECTOR

REF STATE 082840

1. CONTRARY TO "RAILROAD GAZETTE INTERNATIONAL," THERE ARE NO PLANS TO BEGIN THE PARAKOU-NIAMEY RAILROAD EXTENSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. MAJOR OBSTACLE REMAINS THE INABILITY TO PROCURE FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT, VALUED AT DOLS 180 MILLION. REPS OF SEAFEST LTD. OF ENGLAND RECENTLY HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BENINESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT THE PROJECT. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY HAS NOT LEARNED OF ANY CONCRETE PROPOSALS ARISING FROM THEIR CONSULTATIONS.

2. THE RAILWAY, HOWEVER, HAS RECENTLY RECEIVED TWO LOANS FROM THE CAISSE CENTRALE DE LA COOPERATION ECONOMIQUE (FRANCE) FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCKS. THE LOANS, TOTALING \$7.8 MILLION, WERE GRANTED AT SIX PERCENT INTEREST WITH A 12 YEAR PERIOD OF AMORTIZATION, AND REQUIRE THE PURCHASE OF FRENCH EQUIPMENT. THE RAILWAY, HOWEVER, HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN OBTAINING AN ADDITIONAL \$5 TO 10 MILLION FOR THE PURCHASE OF ROLLING STOCK.

3. ALL BIDDING ON THE PORT EXPANSION IS FINISHED. CONTRACTS WILL PROBABLY BE AWARDED IN JULY.

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4. THE BENINESE CONTINUE TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN THE AIRPORT PROJECT. MAJOR OBSTACLE AGAIN IS THE PROCUREMENT OF FINANCING. EXPECTED COST OF THE PROJECT IS DOLS 70 MILLION. WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT INFO AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. THOMPSON

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Message Attributes

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